



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



NOAA Fisheries Service is an agency within the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the earth's environment and conserve and manage coastal and marine resources to meet our nation's economic, social and environmental needs. The NOAA Fisheries Service provides world class science and stewardship.

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1-888-MRIP-411

## NEW LAW IN 2010

### National Saltwater Angler Registry

*Most Virginia saltwater recreational anglers and spearfishers will need to be registered to fish for anadromous species in tidal waters or for any fish in Federal waters beginning January 1, 2010.*

#### OVERVIEW

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is a new tool being used to achieve NOAA's mission of safeguarding the long-term health of our shared marine resources. The focus of the program is on saltwater recreational fishing, which generates an estimated \$82 billion in sales and supports over 500,000 jobs annually. MRIP is changing the way recreational fishing data is collected and reported to help ensure that managers, anglers, and other stakeholders have reliable information necessary to manage fish stocks and their surrounding ecosystems for generations to come.

#### THE NATIONAL SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRY

A critical component of MRIP is the new National Saltwater Angler Registry, which will serve as a "phone book" of the nation's sport fishermen. The registry will enable NOAA to more effectively gather information from saltwater fishermen, enhancing our ability to produce the most timely and accurate information possible about the health of recreational fish stocks.

Most important, the registry will enable NOAA and anglers to more effectively work together to protect the long-term sustainability of our oceans and the sport of saltwater fishing.

#### WHO NEEDS TO REGISTER IN 2010

Virginia anglers will need to register if they:

- Fish for or catch anadromous species in tidal waters;
- Fish in the Federal waters more than 3 miles from the ocean shore or from the mouth of Chesapeake Bay;
- Don't meet any of the exceptions below.

Federal law requires anglers to register with NOAA even if they have a Virginia saltwater fishing license, boat license, or fish in a free area. There is no cost to register in 2010.

#### EXCEPTIONS

Virginia anglers will not need to register if they are under 16; only fish on licensed charter, party or guide boats; hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling permit; or hold and are fishing under a valid commercial license. Out-of-state saltwater anglers who are already registered with NOAA do not need to re-register to fish in Virginia.

#### NOTE

The registration requirement is in addition to, and has no bearing on, existing or future fishery management regulations such as size and bag limits, closed seasons and areas. For example, no person, whether or not registered by NOAA, is permitted to harvest or possess striped bass in the US EEZ.